



## Press Release

Gala des prix Opus, 23<sup>rd</sup> édition  
Sunday, January 19, 2020

### And the winners are...

(Montréal, Sunday, January 19, 2020) – The 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Conseil québécois de la musique's Opus Awards Gala was held this Sunday, January 19, 2020 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' Bourgie Hall. The artistic direction of the gala was entrusted to the duo of Alexis Raynault and Hubert Tanguay-Labrosse, co-directors of BOP | Ballet-Opéra-Pantomime. Thirty Opus awards were handed out in recognition of the remarkable achievements of Québec's music scene during the 2018-2019 season.

Onstage, actor, musician and dancer Florence Blain Mbaye capably took on the role of MC, while singer and ICI Musique host Marc Hervieux was backstage to capture the spontaneous reactions of the winners. The interviews, live-streamed on the CQM's Facebook page, can be viewed at [prixopus.qc.ca](http://prixopus.qc.ca).

### Spotlight on music

To kick things off, under the direction of Hubert Tanguay-Labrosse, the Quatuor Molinari, Matthias Soly-Letarte and musicians from the I Musici de Montréal chamber orchestra joined a choir of students from Joseph-François-Perreault High School to perform Francis Poulenc's *Litanies à la Vierge noire*. Afterwards, H. M. Górecki's *Quartet No. 2, Op. 64* was performed by the Molinari Quartet. The intensity of the musical performances was enhanced by nine dancers. The audience also heard the piece *Mimeault/Morris* (traditional, arrangement by Babineau/Chartrand) performed by Nicolas Babineau and Alexis Chartrand. The event closed with all the musicians onstage to perform a medley of works by William Byrd. The stage entrances and exits of the winners were paced thanks to Montreal composer Simon Chioini.

As well, the Tribute award was presented to Monique Dubé, retired executive director of Société Pro Musica, in acknowledgment of her tireless commitment to the development of chamber music in Montreal. The Conseil québécois de la musique wishes to recognize the major contribution of Ms. Dubé's career to Québec's music scene.

### Enhanced awards

Thanks to the CQM's precious partners, eight awards at the Opus Awards Gala were accompanied by a cash prize or a project opportunity. The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec awarded \$10,000 to Composer of the Year Éric Champagne; the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications gave \$5,000 to the Orchestre Métropolitain, winner of the Production of the Year – Young Audiences award for its production *Airs de jeunesse – La musique au cinéma : Génial!*; and the Canada Council for the Arts awarded \$5,000 to Ensemble Paramirabo, chosen Performer of the Year. For its part, the Conseil des arts de Montréal gave \$3,000 to the OktoÉcho ensemble, winner of the Inclusion and Diversity –

# PRIX<sup>23</sup> OPUS

OPUS AWARDS  
January 19, 2020 – 3 p.m.  
[prixOpus.qc.ca](http://prixOpus.qc.ca)  
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CONSEIL QUÉBÉCOIS DE LA  
MUSIQUE

Montréal award, as well as to the Orchestre Métropolitain, winner of the Concert of the Year – Montréal award for *Le Château de Barbe-Bleue*. Télé-Québec's Fabrique culturelle will produce a capsule on the Orchestre symphonique de Drummondville, winner of the Concert of the Year – Regions award for its concert *Prince et Tsar*. The Conseil québécois du Patrimoine vivant gave \$1,000 to Les Chauffeurs à pieds for its concert *Déversement d'huiles*, for which the group won Concert of the Year – Traditional Québec Music. Finally, CINARS awarded the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, winner of the special prize for International Achievement for its 2019 European tour, the sum of \$1,000 as well as a place at the CINARS 2020 biennial (a \$1,000 value).

The Conseil québécois de la musique wishes to thank its partners for supporting this 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Opus Awards Gala: [Musicaction](#), the [Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec](#), the [Ministère de la Culture et des Communications](#), the [Canada Council for the Arts](#), the [Conseil des arts de Montréal](#), [ICI MUSIQUE](#), [la destination musicale de Radio-Canada](#), [La Fabrique culturelle](#), [Le Devoir](#), [La Scena Musicale](#), [Ludwig Van Montréal](#), [CINARS](#), the [Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant](#), the [Montreal Museum of Fine Arts](#) and [Bourgie Hall](#). This project has been made possible in part thanks to the governments of Quebec and Canada.

The Conseil québécois de la musique is a grouping of organizations and professionals working in the field of concert music. Its activities promote the cohesion, recognition and development of Québec's music scene and help defend the latter's interests.

\* The list of winners accompanies this press release.

## Information

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CINARS

La Scena Musicale



## WINNERS

### Opus Awards Gala, 23<sup>rd</sup> edition / 2018-2019 Season

#### CONCERTS

##### **Concert of the Year – Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music**

*Musica Notturna*, Arion Orchestre Baroque, Enrico Onofri, conductor and soloist, May 2 to 5, 2019

##### **Concert of the Year – Classical, Romantic, post-Romantic and Impressionist music**

*Le Château de Barbe-Bleue*, Orchestre Métropolitain, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor, Kerson Leong, violin, Michèle Losier, mezzo-soprano, John Relyea, bass, March 1, 2019

##### **Concert of the Year – Modern and Contemporary music**

*Grand concert 30<sup>e</sup> anniversaire*, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, the Ensemble à percussion Sixtrum, Lorraine Vaillancourt, conductor, May 3, 2019

##### **Concert of the Year – Musique actuelle and Electroacoustic music**

*Cathédrale-Métal*, QUASAR quatuor de saxophones, June 6, 2019

##### **Concert of the Year – Jazz**

*Charbonneau ou les valeurs à bonne place, volume 1*, Hugo Blouin, May 2, 2019

##### **Concert of the Year – World music**

*Zoubida*, Ayrad, Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, July 5, 2019

##### **Concert of the Year – Traditional Québec music**

Presented jointly with the Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant, which awarded \$1,000 to the winner.

*Déversement d'huiles*, Les Chauffeurs à pieds, La Grande Rencontre, September 14, 2018



## Concert of the Year – Multiple repertoires

*Opéras!*, Galileo (formerly the Orchestre symphonique de la Vallée-du-Haut-Saint-Laurent), Daniel Constantineau, conductor, soloists from the Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal, May 26 and June 6, 2019

## Concert of the Year – Montréal

*The Conseil des arts de Montréal awarded \$3,000 to the winner.*



*Le Château de Barbe-Bleue*, Orchestre Métropolitain, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor, Kerson Leong, violin, Michèle Losier, mezzo-soprano, John Relyea, bass, March 1, 2019

## Concert of the Year – Québec

*Le vaisseau fantôme* by Wagner, Festival d'opéra de Québec, François Girard, scenography, Jacques Lacombe, conductor, Gregory Dahl, baritone, Andreas Bauer Kanabas, bass, Johanni van Oostrum, soprano, Allyson McHardy, mezzo-soprano, Éric Laporte, Eric Thériault, tenors, Orchestre symphonique de Québec, Chœur de l'Opéra de Québec, July 28 and 30, August 1 and 3, 2019

## Concert of the Year – Regions

*La Fabrique culturelle awarded the winner an opportunity to record a capsule to be broadcast on Télé-Québec's cultural platform on the Web.*



*Prince et Tsar*, Orchestre symphonique de Drummondville, Julien Proulx, conductor, Stéphanie Pothier, mezzo-soprano, Chœur Bella Voce and Bishop's University Singers, April 18, 2019

## Production of the Year – Young audiences

*The Ministère de la Culture et des Communications awarded \$5,000 to the winner.*



*Airs de jeunesse – La musique au cinéma : Génial!*, Orchestre Métropolitain, Nicolas Ellis, conductor, Eva Lesage, violin, Mathias Leclerc, oboe, Catherine St-Arnaud, soprano, Martin Carli, scientist, April 6, 2019

## Creation of the Year

*Ode au métal*, Sonia Paço-Rocchia, *Cathédrale-Métal*, QUASAR quatuor de saxophones, June 6, 2019



## ALBUMS

### **Album of the Year – Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music**

*Renaissance*, Quartom, ATMA Classique

### **Album of the Year – Classical, Romantic, post-Romantic and Impressionist music**

*Sibelius 1*, Orchestre Métropolitain, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, ATMA Classique

### **Album of the Year – Modern and Contemporary music**

*John Zorn*, Quatuor Molinari, ATMA Classique

### **Album of the Year – Musique actuelle and Electroacoustic music**

*The Happiness Handbook*, Instruments of Happiness (BradyWorks), Starkland Records

### **Album of the Year – Jazz**

*Equilibrium*, Samuel Blais, Les Disques ODD Sound

### **Album of the Year – World music and Traditional Québec music**

*Skye Consort & Emma Björling*, Skye Consort and Emma Björling, Leaf Music Inc.

## WRITINGS

### **Book of the Year**

*Mozart 1941: La Semaine Mozart du Reich allemand et ses invités français*, Marie-Hélène Benoit-Otis and Cécile Quesney, Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2019



## SPECIAL AWARDS

### Tribute Award

Monique Dubé

### Composer of the Year

*The Conseil des arts et des lettres awarded \$10,000 to the winner.*

Éric Champagne



Conseil  
des arts  
et des lettres  
du Québec

### Discovery of the Year

Gentiane MG

### Artistic Director of the Year

Claire Guimond, Arion Orchestre Baroque

### Performer of the Year

*The Canada Council for the Arts awarded \$5,000 to the winner.*

Ensemble Paramirabo



Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

Canada Council  
for the Arts

### Pluridisciplinary Presenter of the Year

Société de développement culturel de Terrebonne

### Specialized Music Presenter of the Year

Groupe Le Vivier

### Musical Event of the Year

*Rythmopolis*, Ensemble à percussion Sixtrum



**International Achievement**

*CINARS awarded \$1,000 to the winner, as well as a place at the CINARS 2020 biennial.*



Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, 2019 European Tour

**Inclusion and Diversity – Montréal**

*Presented jointly with the Conseil des arts de Montréal, which awarded \$3,000 to the winner.*



OktoÉcho